

was also an important experience for the people who we represent and the progress we are trying to make.

For those of you who are American seminarians here, I would like to say a special word of appreciation for the role of the Catholic Church in our country. There are 20,000 parishes, 9,000 Catholic elementary and high schools, over 200 Catholic colleges and universities, one of which gave me a degree a long time ago. The thing I have always revered about the Catholic Church was the sense of constancy and commitment of the Church in our national life, the sense of putting one's life, one's money, one's time where one's stated ideas are.

The Catholic Church has brought together faith and action, word and deed, bringing together people across the lines of rich and poor, of racial lines and other lines perhaps better than any other institution in our society. And I am convinced that it's been able to do that because people like you, those of you who are here as seminarians, have been willing to make the ultimate commitment of your entire lives in the service of that in which you believe.

In all secular societies, it is recognized that very few people have the capacity to make a commitment of that depth and constancy. And yet all of us know that, ultimately, the meaning of our lives depends upon the constant effort to achieve a level of integrity between what we feel and what we think and what we do. And I stand here today to tell you that as an American President I am immensely proud of the commitment you have made.

Hillary and I have a friend, whom we treasure greatly, who is a Jesuit priest who I met over 30 years ago, who went to law school with us later and who continues to labor to fulfill his vows. And one of my most treasured possessions that I ever received from a personal friend was a letter that he wrote to us after he had been a priest for 20 years, explaining without being at all self-righteous what it had meant to him to have kept his vows for two decades and why he thought in a way he had lived a selfish life because he had achieved a measure of peace and comfort and energy that he could have found in no other way.

It is that feeling that I think ultimately we want for all the people of our Nation and all the people of the world. And for your example in taking us in that direction, I thank you very much.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 1:05 p.m. in the Sala Clementina at the Vatican. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See Raymond Flynn; William Cardinal Baum, major penitentiary, Apostolic Penitentiary; and Edmund Cardinal Szoka, president, Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy in Rome

June 2, 1994

Q. Mr. President, North Korea's being very threatening—making more statements about—the talks that you've undertaken—talks of tough sanctions. What do you say to that?

The President. We're going to have a question period, I think, afterward. The Prime Minister and I will make statements and then answer questions. I'd rather answer questions then.

President's Visit

Q. Any general impressions so far—just about how things are going?

The President. It's been a very good trip so far. I've been very impressed, pleased with the reception, pleased with the support for the United States.

NOTE: The exchange began at 3:34 p.m. in Room 123, Piano Primo at the Palazzo Chigi. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Berlusconi of Italy in Rome

June 2, 1994

Prime Minister Berlusconi. I wish to begin by first and foremost thanking the